



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY Community Preservation Committee

Meeting Minutes July 28, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Nancy Reed, Chair, at 7:05 p.m. at the Pike House. In attendance were Richard Montuori, Jim Wentworth, Tom Churchill, Steve Deackoff, Christina Nawn, and John Deputat. Also present was Steve Sadwick, Director of Community Development.

1) Reorganization

MOTION: Mr. Churchill made the motion to postpone this topic to the next meeting due to the resolution of some outstanding issues; seconded by Mr. Wentworth and the motion carried 7-0.

2) a) Strong Field—Dr. John O'Connor and Ron Druin

There was a meeting with the landscaping company for the infield repair, Shrewsbury Landscaping and their estimate appears to be in-line with the budget. Dr. O'Connor and Mr. Druin are confident that the price from Fencing Unlimited will come in okay. Mr. Wentworth noted that they estimate was \$221,000 and mentioned that the request was for \$202,125. Dr. O'Connor informed the Committee that the outfield has been used as a practice field. Mr. Druin mentioned that the field was a staging area for the high school construction project and that maintenance was not kept up on the field. Mr. Wentworth mentioned that the School Department still has \$150,000 for playgrounds and asked if it was possible to redirect some of the funding. Ms. Reed stated that the appropriation would have to be taken back to Town Meeting to reduce it and why would that be done if the project was previously identified as a priority. Mr. Wentworth mentioned there are other priorities on the horizon. Mr. Montuori offered that it would free up funding.

Dr. O'Connor explained how the elementary school project process has proceeded with MSBA since 2013. There have been a number of different iterations of what schools would be replaced that have been discussed and presented. The consultant has not been able to give the School Department an estimate on making the playgrounds safe. They will probably spend some of the money, but are unsure as to what the total would be. Mr. Montuori asked if there is enough money to cover this new proposal. Ms. Reed stated that between the current open space balance of \$100,000 and the undesignated balance of

\$538,000 there is enough. Mr. Deackoff asked why the CPC can't prioritize its funding knowing that there are future projects. He gave the rail trails construction as an example. Ms. Reed mentioned that it is at least 2-3 years away for the rail trails. The athletic field received \$600,000. Long Pond is most important to keep in mind. The Town needs to be prepared to act if we do not receive grant funding. It may require bond authorization which is a 2/3 Town Meeting vote.

Mr. Wentworth questioned whether this the best use of money. If only \$50,000 is required for ground cover, then why not come back for the rest. Dr. O'Connor suggested that the CPC vote for the \$202,000 and he will have a better feel for cost and will come back to the Committee. He will turn back any money that is not spent on the project. Ms. Reed stated that we are talking about the difference of \$50-100,000; we should move forward with the \$202,000 and if the School Department doesn't use it, they return it. Mr. Wentworth asked if there were any other projects coming down the pipeline. Mr. Deackoff felt that even though TMHS caused the problem with Strong Field; this would complete the campus build-out and should be open to the public.

Mr. Montuori wants to verify the numbers with the Finance Director. He asked the philosophical question of whether the CPC should be advocating for projects and be out looking for projects. He also took offense to the comment that Strong Field was damaged due to it being used as a staging area. He said that the problem with the field is due to lack of maintenance. Mr. Churchill said that he agrees with Mr. Deackoff and Mr. Montuori that the CPC should look at how much money is available and prioritize at the beginning of the year. Ms. Nawn asked how is the greater good being served. She also asked what is the final use of the Ella Fleming School and the Marshall House. Mr. Churchill asked about the Pike House. Where is it going? Mr. Montuori explained that it has been out to bid once with no response. He will consider putting it out to bid one more time. He informed the CPC that they should be prepared for the Pike House to be demolished. Ms. Reed said that both the old police station and the Pike House have been on the agenda for past meetings. Mr. Montuori said that more money will be needed for the demolition of the old police station due to asbestos.

MOTION: Mr. Deackoff made the motion to appropriate up to \$202,125 for the Strong Field proposal with an article being submitted for Town Meeting and the recommendation of the CPC to recommend adoption; seconded by Mr. Wentworth and the motion carried 7-0.

3) Livingston Street Recreation Area fencing

Mr. Montuori reported that all the specs have been received. Ms. Reed noted that breakout of the funding would be \$100,000 from open space and \$100,000 from the undesignated fund. The project would entail replacing all existing fencing and backstops.

MOTION: Mr. Wentworth made the motion to submit and support an article for Town Meeting to appropriate \$100,000 from the open space fund and \$100,000 from the undesignated fund balance for the rehabilitation of fencing at the Livingston Street recreation area; seconded by Mr. Churchill and the motion carried 7-0.

4) Brief Updates

Items were covered at the July 16, 2015 meeting.

5) Administrative Support for the CPC, funding with CPA Administrative Funds

Ms. Reed stated that this has been on the agenda because she is looking for someone to interface with the Finance Director. Ms. Reed has many years of experience with this but it has been a struggle and a lot of work. She thinks that support for the CPC needs to be addressed. She thinks that someone dedicated to this would result in a better use of the funds and would ultimately be better for the Town. This would not be a staff position, but possibly a consultant.

Mr. Sadwick mentioned that he could discuss the matter with Jennifer Goldson who is a Community Preservation Act consultant.

MOTION: Mr. Churchill made the motion to request Ms. Goldson come to the next meeting to discuss support of the CPC; seconded by Mr. Deackoff and the motion carried 7-0.

Adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Churchill made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Montuori and the motion carried 7-0.

Approved: 11/19/15

No new information provided.